

Africa. It is my hope that the Act will serve as an institutional framework for private investors and businesses to develop a meaningful presence within Africa. Ultimately, a private-public partnership is what is needed to provide the political and economic support African nations require to meet the development challenges of the 21st century.

I want to thank you and the rest of my colleagues in the House for your support and partnership with Africa. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following article, published in the May 26, 2000, issue of the Baltimore Sun, for insertion into the RECORD.

AMERICAN COMPANIES CAN DO MORE TO HELP AFRICA

(By James Clyburn, Earl Hillard and Bennie Thompson)

During a recent congressional recess, six congressional delegations went on fact-finding missions to Africa. The number of delegations visiting the continent was no coincidence.

Nor was it inconsequential when the United States used its chairmanship of the U.N. Security Council to make January "Africa Month" for the council. President Clinton's recently announced trip to Nigeria in June, the second to Africa in his administration, is a welcome bid to efforts aimed at putting the map of Africa onto the U.S. policy agenda.

The president's efforts are now being supported by members whose views on domestic policy span our political spectrum but who share a commitment to seeing an end to Africa's self-destructive wars and the establishment of an era of peace and prosperity on the continent.

Often, the only images of Africa the American public has the opportunity to see are those of carnage, corruption and catastrophe.

As reports of civil war in Sierra Leone, Eritrea and the Democratic Republic of the Congo continue to grab headlines in America's newspapers, we journeyed to Africa with the hope of highlighting a different image of the continent. Our delegation spent three days in one of the continent's smallest countries, Gambia—made famous by author Alex Haley in his epic saga, "Roots," as the true-life homeland of the novel's hero, Kunta Kinte.

Smaller than any of our individual congressional districts, Gambia is a country of only 1 million people on the west coast of Africa.

The country makes up for its few natural resources with a modern deep-water port and one of Africa's most advanced telecommunications systems. Like many African countries, Gambia is struggling to define itself as a service economy, worthy of Western investment.

During our stay, we were bounced along seemingly impassible roads to isolated villages by our government hosts and saw that the much-vaunted "services" did not extend outside the capital city of Banjul. What we were shown was not a whitewash, however, but a stark example of an African country struggling to provide a better future for its people.

Between episodic power outages and seasonal floods, there exists in Gambia a hope and motivation to overcome and succeed. From what we were shown, Gambia can, and may already be, an African success story.

With the construction of many new hospitals and dozens of new schools, including the country's first university, the govern-

ment of President Yahya Jammeh is succeeding where 30 years of autocratic rule had failed.

However, the technical, financial and educational resources of such countries are quickly exhausted—leaving too many projects incomplete and ideas unrealized.

As the international assistance and debt relief to these countries has stalled in our Congress, or dried up completely, private, non-governmental groups have stepped in to fill the void in implementing essential development programs.

U.S.-based Catholic Relief Services has in place across Gambia, and the rest of Africa, programs that promote the role of women in society, provide HIV education and fund micro-enterprise projects—all programs that formerly were undertaken by the U.S. Agency for International Development. However, these non-governmental organizations are themselves subject to competing congressional finding interests and so, too, remain sorely underdeveloped.

As in our cities, where corporate America has helped fund a rebirth of our inner cities, so, too, can it assist the nations of Africa in their own rebirth.

This notion of "trade not aid" is the cornerstone of the African Growth and Opportunity Act that President Clinton signed into law this month and should define the future of U.S. relations with Africa.

Those companies already at work in Africa and with Africans, are now ideally placed to provide the kind of business environment that ultimately creates a peaceful society.

A healthy and educated workforce is not only for good business but for stable and peaceful lives, free of war and poverty, sickness and migration.

As members of Congress, it is our hope and intention to help facilitate these partnerships wherever possible. We have seen the hope of a proud and welcoming people and will implore our friends and colleagues to help Africa keep hope alive.

The three writers are members of the Congressional Black Caucus from South Carolina, Alabama and Mississippi, respectively. Mr. Clyburn is caucus chairman.

ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL ARTS COMPETITION PARTICIPANTS HONORED

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2000

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, once again, I come to the floor to recognize the great success of strong local school systems working with dedicated parents and teachers. I rise today to congratulate and honor 47 outstanding high school artists from the 11th Congressional District of New Jersey. Each of these talented students participated in the Annual Congressional Arts Competition, "An Artistic Discovery," sponsored by Schering-Plough Corporation. They were recently honored at a reception and exhibit. Their works are exceptional.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to list each of the students, their high schools, and their contest entries, for the official record.

Sarah Louise Podron, Bayley Ellard High School, The Open Window.

Alexis Perry, Bayley Ellard High School, Window of My Soul.

Ed Steiner, Boonton High School, Great Grandfather.

Eileen Mondino, Boonton High School, Tony.

Samanatha Fuess, Boonton High School, The Duck Shot.

Jenny Blankenship, Boonton High School, Untitled.

Allyson Wood, Dover High School, Metamorphosis.

Mike Cicchetti, Dover High School, Still Life.

Jeff Albeck, Dover High School, Charles in Charge.

Jee Hae Choe, Dover High School, Untitled.

Andrew Racz, Hanover Park High School, Self Portrait.

Jean Guzzi, Hanover Park High School, Lost.

Amy Chang, Hanover Park High School, Self Portrait—Amy.

Stephanie Fertinel, Hanover Park High School, Reflections.

Jessica Posio, Livingston High School, Dreamer.

Tricia Lin, Livingston High School, Untitled.

Alexandra Weeks, Madison High School, City.

Lynette Murphy, Madison High School, Vice Versa.

Michael Sutherland, Madison High School, Weather.

Juyoun Lee, Madison High School, Season.

Christopher Butler, Matheny School and Hospital, Untitled.

Faith Stolz, Matheny School and Hospital, Untitled.

Diana Viulante, Montville High School, Flying.

Jimin Oh, Montville High School, Self Portrait.

Elizabeth Mayer, Montville High School, Wishing for Winter.

Matal Usefi, Montville High School, Primal Instincts.

Matthew Schwartz, Morris Hills High School, Self Portrait.

Brooke Purpura, Morris Knolls High School, Self Portrait.

John Fisher, Morris Knolls High School, Self Portrait.

Marion Bezars, Jr., Morris Knolls High School, Pondering.

Kristen Reilly, Mt. Olive High School, Stamped in Stone.

Jonathan Rehm, Mt. Olive High School, Blind Faith.

Rachel Regina, Mt. Olive High School, Phil.

Tanya Maddaloni, Mt. Olive High School, Creation.

Steven Ehrenkrantz, Randolph High School, Untitled.

Alton Wilky, Randolph High School, Whai.

Francesca Oliveria, Randolph High School, Immanis.

Ashleyh Waddington, Randolph High School, Untitled.

Shirley Lewlowicz, West Essex High School, Untitled.

Rachel Glaser, West Essex Senior High School, Untitled.

Joseph Morelli, West Essex Senior High School, Untitled.

Kate O'Donnell, West Essex Senior High School, Irish Heritage.

Austyn Stevens, West Morris High School, Diva.

**11590**

**EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS**

*June 20, 2000*

Kerry French, West Morris Mendham High School, Kassie.

Meghan Buckner, West Morris Mendham High School, Ashley.

Erin Bollinger, West Morris Mendham High School, Self Portrait.

Emily Dimiero, West Morris Mendham High School, Facade.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, each year the winner of the competition will have the oppor-

tunity to travel to Washington D.C. to meet Congressional Leaders and to mount his or her artwork in a special corridor of the U.S. Capitol along with winners from across the country. This year, first place went to John Fisher of Morris Knolls High School. Second place went to Emily Dimiero of West Morris Mendham High School. Rachel Regina of Mt. Olive High School was awarded third place. In

addition, seven other submissions received honorable mention by the judges, Kerry French, Erin Bollinger, Jimin Oh, Rachel Glaser, Jenny Blankenship, Juyoun Lee and Mario Bezars, Jr.

Indeed, all of these young artists are winners, and we should be proud of their achievements so early in life.